1/15/71

Mr. Ernest Austin
SCLC
334-Ashburn Ave., N.E.
Atlanta, Ga. 30303

Dear Mr. Austin,

With today the anniversary of Dr. King's birth, it is an interesting coincidence that I have just seen your letter of 5/26/70 to Bud Fensterwald who, through my efforts, is now Ray's lawyer. And was my lawyer, after your letter, in winning a "Freedom of Information" suit against the Department of Justice for what I could identify under the law that was suppressed about this assassination.

If I shared your pessimism my finances and health would be much better, for I'd not have been doing what has dominated my life since JFK was killed. Nor would I have completed a book on the King assassination that proves your hunch, which was also and immediately my own.

Please take no personal offense, but part of the reason the "Establishment power forces", as you call them, can get away with such things is the abdication of those who can and should try to oppose. Silence, in practise, equates with assent. It brings Hitlers, Nixons and other such blessings.

Dr. Abernathy and perhaps a hundred other friends of the murdered man are among the silent. I wrote many. Not one responded. When you see this book, you may perhaps better understand how much more it could have been if any one had offered any help. At the same time I also tell you that I have significant evidence so "hot" I dared not print it, for if I did, people would die. There is a hope you do not share and do not seem to see.

In any event, my chief purpose in writing is because my interest did not end with completion ofnthe book, soon to be out. You told Fensterwald that you "'looked like' the man who did it." This makes me ask for a description and picture of you and any descriptions you may have been given of "the man who did it", to the best of my knowledge seen by nobody. If this meant the man allegedly seen leaving the flophouse, that is only slightly less interesting, for I have a potential candidate, not Ray.

You also said you had "definite reasons" for believing there had been a conspiracy. I would much appreciate them and any proofs. And, anything else you may have or might be able to get, including the letter Rev. Bevel gave authorities, if a copy was made and kept. With the effort to bring this case to fukk, public hearing, I think you can see the possible significance of any data, especially when I have so much with which it can be correlated.

Thanks very much for anything you can do.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg